

# ***Minneapolis VA Health Care System (MVAHCS) PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency 2022-23:***



**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

## **ASHP-Accredited**

PGY1 – Pharmacy Residency  
PGY2 – Pain Management and Palliative Care  
PGY2 – Psychiatric Pharmacy  
PGY2 – Geriatric Pharmacy

## ***Residency Program Overview***

Our program has three post-graduate year two (PGY-2) residents: one focused in Geriatrics, one focused in Psychiatry, and one focused in Pain Management and Palliative Care. In addition, there are four PGY-1 residents. The post-graduate year one (PGY-1) pharmacy residency program at this facility is one of the first accredited residency programs with over 55 years of continuous accreditation by ASHP.

## ***PGY-2 Geriatrics Overview***

Required rotations for the PGY-2 Geriatrics Residency include a balance of 4 weeks of orientation, twelve weeks of inpatient community living center (CLC), twelve weeks of home-based primary care (HBPC) and four weeks of geropsychiatry. Thirteen weeks is allotted for electives in areas of interest or extensions of core rotations. The resident is involved longitudinally with our Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) interprofessional program, with weekly clinic appointments and journal clubs.

The PGY-2 geriatric resident shares the responsibilities of Chief Resident with the other PGY-2 residents. The PGY-2 geriatric resident is highly involved in precepting, mentoring, and facilitating the professional development of the PGY-1 residents over the year.

## ***Residency Experiences***

ACLS/BLS certification, drug information service, in-services, journal club, CE presentations, newsletter editor and contributor, major residency project, and precepting and mentoring pharmacy students and PGY-1 residents.

## ***Minneapolis VA Health Care System***

MVAHCS is one of the ten largest VA medical centers in the country, serving more than 100,000 veterans in a six-state area of the upper Midwest. Our facility is a teaching hospital affiliated with the College of Pharmacy and School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota, and provides a full range of patient care services with state-of-the-art technology, educational resources, and research. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, specialty care, and long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, neurology, oncology, and geriatrics.

## ***Pharmacy Services***

More than 100 pharmacists play a vital role in the delivery of patient care; working as a team with physicians, nurses and other health care practitioners to ensure America's veterans receive the finest care. Pharmacists routinely interact one-on-one with patients providing consultation and guidance on the use of medications. Pharmacists initiate and adjust medications through an independent scope of practice. VA pharmacists fully utilize their skills and knowledge in their daily practice.

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## ***Project/Research Requirements***

The MVAHCS pharmacy residency programs use the inverted research model (IRM). During the first half of the year, residents are involved in data collection, data analysis, presentation, and manuscript submission as they finish this project. During the second half of the year, residents start a project to be finished the next residency year, performing the background research, developing the protocol, and obtaining IRB approval (if applicable). This allows residents to gain project management experience in two longitudinal projects during one residency year. Residents work with preceptors and the research team on these projects and present at an appropriate venue each year. A final manuscript is a requirement for completion of the residency. A medication use evaluation (MUE) is also required during the year.

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## ***Required Learning Experiences***

- Orientation (2 weeks)
- Geriatric Psychiatry (4 weeks)
- Home-Based Primary Care (Two blocks, 6 weeks each)
- Community Living Center (Two blocks 6 weeks each)

## ***Required Longitudinal Experiences***

- Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC)
- Chief Resident
- Leadership, Quality, and Management
- Research & Project Management
- Professional Service
- Longitudinal Patient Care and Staffing

## ***Elective Learning Experiences***

- Neurology
- Outpatient Ambulatory Primary and Specialty Care
- Palliative Care
- Deprescribing
- Pain Management
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Other elective rotations are available based on the residents interests

## *Twin Cities, MN*



The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area has a combined population of over 2.4 million people. The Twin Cities are nationally recognized for their arts, most notable are the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Orchestra, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Science Museum and the Walker Art Center. Not to mention the many art festivals throughout the year. The VA Medical Center is located very near to both the Mall of America and the airport. Recreational activities span the four seasons, and the state is home to seven professional sports teams: Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, Lynx, Wild, Minnesota United FC, and St. Paul Saints. The Twin Cities are also known for music and food.



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## ***PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Practice Residency Application Procedure***

### ***Requirements***

- The applicant must complete an ASHP accredited PGY-1 residency.
- U.S. citizenship is required.
- The applicant must be registered with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Match Program. The only exception would be for early commitment.
- An on-site interview is required for all applicants unless another mode is deemed necessary by Resident Program Director in advance.

### ***Application Requirements***

- Application materials must be submitted via PhORCAS by December 31st of 2022
- Complete online application through PhORCAS
- Academic Transcripts including College of Pharmacy
- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Intent
- Reference Letters (3) utilizing PhORCAS standardized form
- Sample of written work from PGY-1 residency

Some of the criteria considered in choosing residents include knowledge of professional practice, communication skills and ability to apply theory to practice, leadership ability, interest in the program, confidence, and professionalism.

See our website for additional information: <https://www.va.gov/minneapolis-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/pharmacy-student-and-residency-programs/>

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## ***General Information and Benefits***

### **General Information:**

- Duration: 12 months
- Number of Positions: 1
- Starting Date: July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
- Model Type: Teaching, Tertiary
- Estimated Stipend: \$48,617
- Total Beds: 348 in acute care including psychiatry, spinal cord, neurology, surgery, cardiology, intensive care, and general internal medicine & 104 in the community living center

### **Benefits:**

- Competitive stipend
- 4 hours annual leave and 4 hours sick leave per pay period (2 weeks)
- 11 paid holidays per year
- Eligible for federal employee health and life insurance
- Dedicated resident office space
- Free parking
- Educational leave for the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting OR Geriatric meeting of choice and Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) Meeting(s)



## Pharmacy Residents



*PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents from left to right: Jesse Upton, Christy Varghese, Hailee Griffin, Siri Roberts, Rebecca 'Becky' Thelen, Leyla Rashid, Sabrina Sturm, and Alyssa Isola*



*PGY-2 residents from left to right: Christy Varghese, Jesse Upton, and Hailee Griffin*

PGY-1 Residents	PGY-2 Residents
Alyssa Isola Email: <a href="mailto:Alyssa.Isola@va.gov">Alyssa.Isola@va.gov</a>	Hailee Griffin (Geriatrics) Email: <a href="mailto:Hailee.Griffin@va.gov">Hailee.Griffin@va.gov</a>
Leyla Rashid Email: <a href="mailto:Leyla.Rashid@va.gov">Leyla.Rashid@va.gov</a>	Jesse Upton (Psychiatry) Email: <a href="mailto:Jesse.Upton@va.gov">Jesse.Upton@va.gov</a>
Siri Roberts Email: <a href="mailto:Siri.Roberts@va.gov">Siri.Roberts@va.gov</a>	Christy Varghese (Pain Mgmt & Palliative Care) Email: <a href="mailto:Christy.Varghese@va.gov">Christy.Varghese@va.gov</a>
Rebecca 'Becky' Thelen Email: <a href="mailto:Rebecca.Thelen@va.gov">Rebecca.Thelen@va.gov</a>	
Sabrina Sturm Email: <a href="mailto:Sabrina.Sturm1@va.gov">Sabrina.Sturm1@va.gov</a>	

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## ***Program Director***



Melissa Atwood, PharmD,  
BCACP, BCPS, CDCES,  
BCGP  
Clinical Pharmacist  
Practitioner  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers  
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[melissa.atwood@va.gov](mailto:melissa.atwood@va.gov)  
(preferred)

## ***Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion***

At the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System, we are committed to fostering and sustaining an environment which celebrates diversity, provides equitable opportunities for employment and promotion, and supports inclusiveness in pharmacy culture. We embrace our differences as individuals and unite as a pharmacy team toward a common goal: to deliver optimal, patient-centered care for our nation's Veterans



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## ***Congratulations 2021-22 Resident Graduates:***

From left to right bottom row: Alyssa Isola (Graduating in November – off cycle), Taylor Gill (PGY-1 general), Julia Buteyn (PGY-2 geriatrics), and Amanda Mueller (PGY-2 pain management and palliative care)

From left to right top row: Annie Hertel (PGY-2 psychiatry), Jesse Upton (PGY-1 general with mental health longitudinal exp), and Hailee Griffin (PGY-1 general)



